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Bonn Policy on Developing States Drawing Fire

West Germany's Christian Democrats plan to launch a major attack on the government in parliament next week for not defending free market principles against demands for the less developed states for a new international economic order at the seventh special UN General Assembly session earlier this month.

The opposition's line has already appeared in several press articles arguing that Bonn went too far in accepting the final resolution of the special session. Bonn is accused of failing to follow Washington and some of its EC partners in fully articulating reservations about the resolution.

Foreign Office representatives have tried to counter these accusations by stating that, in accepting the final resolution, Bonn only committed itself to discussing or studying various proposals advanced by the developing nations, such as indexation of oil prices, integrated commodity agreements, and buffer stocks.

These officials concede that Schmidt had agreed to link development aid to the creation of special drawing rights issued by the International Monetary Fund. They stressed, however, that Bonn would oppose the special drawing rights plan unless there is a need for greater international liquidity. Several officials in the finance ministry who share Christian Democratic concerns feel that, despite this qualification, the government undermined Bonn's long-standing principles.

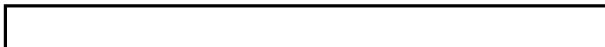
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Although the Christian Democrats have found a new field for controversy, the party leadership will probably not push criticism of the government too far for fear of being labeled inflexible and obstructionist.

The Schmidt government believes that the industrial states must be flexible if the talks next month in Paris among oil importers, exporters, and developing states are to have any chance of success. Government officials will probably take this position in the parliamentary debate next week and later this fall when the Bundestag undertakes an overall review of development aid policy.



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Mudslinging Dominates Turkish Campaign

The campaign for Turkey's 12 October partial senatorial elections has so far produced little in the way of serious national debate on vital issues. The politicians, apparently fearing that commitments on national issues will only lose them votes, have resorted to mudslinging, overblown rhetoric, and occasional violence to overcome traditional apathy toward interim elections.

The absence of serious debate contrasts with the importance leaders of the three major parties attach to the elections. Although the senatorial vote will have no direct bearing on control of the all-important National Assembly, it could give a psychological lift to the winners going into the parliamentary elections that many expect will be called for sometime in 1976.

Prime Minister Demirel, in what appears to be a replay of his uninspired 1973 campaign, is focusing all of his attention on opposition leader Ecevit's Republican People's Party. He has labeled Ecevit a "captive of the radical left" and countered Ecevit's charges of government corruption by terming the opposition leader "the hangman of honor and dignity."

Demirel is faced as well, however, by a challenge from his coalition partner Necmettin Erbakan, leader of the National Salvation Party. Erbakan's attempt to stake out an independent identity for his Muslim fundamentalist party has led him to spend more time calling Demirel "colorless, ignorant and crooked" than attacking Ecevit for "threatening the spiritual fiber of Turkey." Fearing for the coalition, Demirel has not returned Erbakan's fire.

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Focusing primarily on Demirel, Ecevit has not only milked the "corruption" issue but has also lambasted the Prime Minister for being anti-labor and a "pseudo-nationalist." Showing obvious distaste for Demirel's coalition of right-wing parties, Ecevit has charged the prime minister with cooperating with "fascists, lunatics, and murderers," and has tagged him with converting the Cyprus situation from a national strength into a "Gordian knot." His colorful language notwithstanding, Ecevit has apparently not yet revived the charisma he projected in 1973.

Nearly lost in the name-calling have been two potentially important campaign developments:

- Ex-president Bayar has designated the Justice Party the legitimate successor to his outlawed and defunct Democrat Party, a move which could swing some conservative votes to Demirel.
- Erbakan's party is fielding eight retired officers in an apparent effort to diffuse military concern over the Salvationists' use of religion for political purposes.

A preliminary campaign assessment from US Embassy officials indicates that so far there appears to be little reason to expect any significant shift from the voting patterns established in 1973, when Ecevit's party gained a small plurality.

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